

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

This Amendment is submitted contemporaneously with a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 and an Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. §§1.97(b)(4) and 1.98.

Status of the Claims

Claims 3, 10, 15-27, 29-36, and 38-40 are cancelled. Claims 5, 8 and 11 are currently amended. Claims 41 and 42 are new. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-14, 28, 37, 41 and 42 will be pending.

Applicants have not publicly dedicated or abandoned any unclaimed subject matter, and have not acquiesced to any rejections made by the Office in any prior Office action. Applicants reserve the right to pursue prosecution of any presently or previously excluded or cancelled claim embodiments in one or more future continuation and/or divisional applications.

Amendments to Claims

The dependencies of claims 5, 8, and 11 have been amended in view of the cancellation of claim 3.

Support for new claims 41 and 42 can be found, for example, in the specification as filed at page 45, lines 12-13.

Thus, the amendments to the claims are fully supported by the specification as originally filed and add no new matter.

CONCLUSION

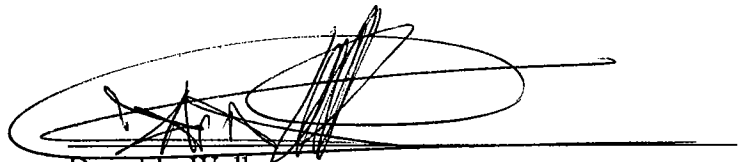
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are directed to patentable subject matter. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration of the application and the timely allowance of the claims.

This Amendment and Response is being filed concurrently with a request for continued examination, and the requisite fee. Applicants believe that no additional fees or petitions are due with this filing. However, should any such fees or petitions be required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge such fees to Dorsey & Whitney LLP Deposit Account No. 04-1415.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-629-3400.

Respectfully submitted,

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